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A Briefing Guide #4

for planning on the Targhee National Forest

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GREETINGS

The Proposed Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Targhee National Forest have been released by the Regional Forester for comment. This Briefing Guide summarizes the conclusions of the two year planning effort of the Targhee which led to the formulation of the plan.

In general, the plan lays out the proposed course of management for the Forest. It is quite specific for the next ten years and less definitive for subsequent decades. In the plan, we attempt to define such things as our projected timber harvest, reforestation goals, wildlife population objectives and habitat management guidelines, recreation practices, fire management techniques and so on. You may not agree with some of the proposed decisions, but we hope you will agree that we have tried to systematically assess the benefits and effects and arrive at a balanced program.

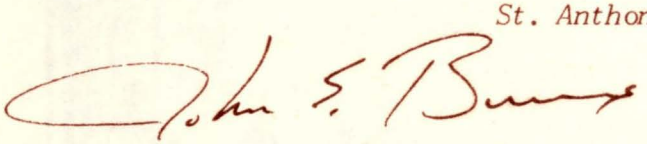
The regulations and process for Forest Planning are complex and time consuming. Quite quickly we recognized that many judgements and interpretations were necessary since we were embarking on a new system of planning and had no prior experience or tested decisions to guide us. Overall, we feel we have adhered to the spirit of the National Forest Management Act and its regulations, and that our proposed plan is a "common sense" response to the needs of the Targhee National Forest, the local communities, and the general public.

Review time for the Forest Plan and DEIS is 90 days, ending **February 16, 1982.** *If you have comments please send them to us prior to that date. Copies of the Plan and DEIS can be obtained from any Targhee Forest Service Office if this briefing guide does not provide sufficient information for your review.*

After February 16, we will review your comments and make any needed changes in the Plan and Environmental Statement. We hope the final documents can be issued in early spring.

Thanks for your participation in this long and complicated process. If you have questions please call me or the Forest Planner, Bob Williams, at (208) 624-3151, or write me at:

Targhee National Forest
P.O. Box 208
St. Anthony, ID 83445



JOHN E. BURNS
Forest Supervisor

PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING GUIDE

In this fourth and last Briefing Guide, we are summarizing those areas in the Forest Plan which answer your issues and concerns. We are not providing any detailed information. If you want to know more about any particular issue or process, call, write or visit.

Two other documents are available. The DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) explains in detail the different alternatives and why Alternative C was chosen as the preferred alternative.

The Forest Plan is a detailed explanation of how Alternative C will guide management of the Targhee National Forest for the next ten years. Maps, included as a part of the Forest Plan and DEIS, show where management activities will occur and give information about the location of different resources such as timber and wildlife habitat.

ISSUES, CONCERNS & OPPORTUNITIES

In February and March, 1980, the Targhee held a series of public meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to find out what the publics thought was important and should be considered in the Forest Plan. From the more than 1700 comments received at these meetings, 20 major issues were developed. In addition, another 40 primary issue areas or subissues were identified. These issues were approved as the driving force behind the Forest Plan.

The following pages in this Briefing Guide will explain briefly how the Forest Plan will resolve the major issues and primary issue areas.

NEXT STEP

The proposed Forest Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and this Briefing Guide now await your review.

After February 16, we will review your comments and make any needed changes in the Plan and Environmental Statement. We hope the final documents can be issued in early spring.

We encourage you to send us your comments during this draft stage so that we can make appropriate changes while there is still flexibility before the final.

Should you have any questions or comments, call the Targhee Forest Planner, Bob Williams, at (208) 624-3151, or write:

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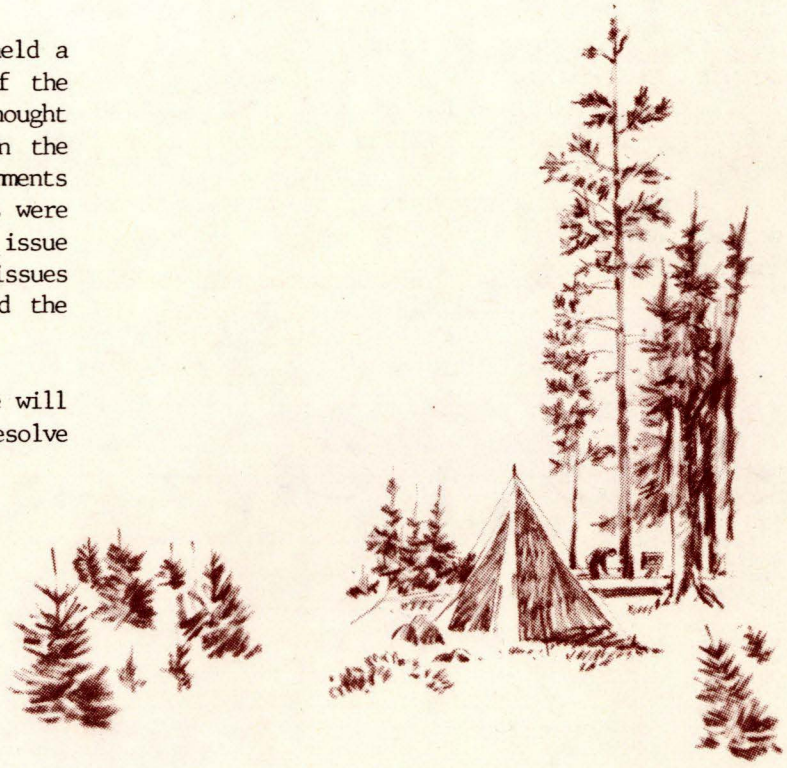


ISSUE #1 FIREWOOD

How should the Targhee National Forest manage the firewood resource?

A. Charge vs. free wood

For the next ten years the Targhee will offer a mix of free and charge deadwood programs for personal use. Alternative C will offer an average of 52 million board feet of deadwood per year. The actual amount will tend to gradually decline after the first few years. At first, more of the mix will be free, but charge permits will be instituted in locations with the easiest access and best wood.

By the end of the ten years, most firewood will be obtained through a nominal fee charge system. All districts will always offer free wood. The Targhee will annually announce the charge and free use firewood program by April 1, and fees will be determined each year. Charge fees for 1981 are $2.00 per cord. The cost will remain nominal (so low in relation to value that it is a mere token) so that deadwood will remain a viable alternative substitute source of energy for personal use by local families. In total, however, the funds generated will greatly assist in reforestation of the areas from which deadwood is removed. Continuing the free program in selected locations will result in the removal of deadwood which otherwise would not be taken.

The advantage to the charge program will be higher payments returned to counties, helping pay administrative costs, reforestation of beetle-killed areas, and a greater assurance of wood for persons purchasing permits.

B. Availability - Utilization

The goal of the Targhee timber program for the next ten years is to remove the beetle-killed deadwood as quickly as possible so that a new forest can be established. Roads are expensive to build and maintain. Most cost is carried by large timber contractors. As deadwood becomes scarce, large timber contracts and new road construction will decrease. Small temporary roads will be built from existing roads to aid firewood cutters. These roads will be closed after the firewood is removed and new trees are planted. Fees charged for firewood will indirectly help pay for major road access maintenance. Alternative C will average 34 miles of new roads each year. Most roads will be built in the first few years.

The advantages of temporary roads for firewood access are more access and removal of dead trees.

Slash piles will be given away or sold wherever possible. Alternative C will provide 9.1 million board feet of slash per year. Most of the slash will be available the first few years before timber sales decline. The advantages of using slash for firewood are providing more wood available for use, less waste of wood, and easy access to deadwood.

Deadwood will be accessible every summer season for as long as possible, depending on weather conditions. When heavy rains or snows occur, deadwood roads will be closed. Otherwise damaging rutting occurs. The advantage to closing deadwood areas during bad weather is the reduction in expensive rescue operations and road maintenance.

The Targhee will continue to send deadwood cutters to designated areas. Sometimes this will mean passing up "good" areas to more depleted areas. The primary purpose of the deadwood program will be to remove as much of the deadwood as possible first, so that these areas can be replanted. Once an area is cleared, new areas will be designated.

The advantages of restricting deadwood cutters to specific areas are the removal of the wood in a systematic pattern, the construction of firebreaks, quicker establishment of new forests, better enforcement and education opportunities, reduced costs for the deadwood management program and more resource protection to other resources such as range, wildlife, soils and green trees.

Most deadwood will be available in areas with former large timber sales, primarily on Ashton and Island Park Districts.

How can timber management objectives be met while protecting other surface resources?

C. Enforcement

Most enforcement will be directed towards protecting commercial sales from theft by firewood gatherers and preventing damage to the forest from cutting in improper locations.

Enforcement will rely on assistance and explanations to cutters. Media contacts will be used often to educate deadwood cutters about rules and regulations. Permits will be designed to encourage people to read them. Signs will clearly mark deadwood cutting areas. Individuals will be expected to abide by the few rules governing wood cutting.

As the firewood supply diminishes, enforcement will protect the remaining green trees and newly planted trees.

Advantages of frequent, regular enforcement and an education emphasis will be greater prevention of illegal cutting of wood, greater safety, better fire prevention, and better cooperation from firewood cutters.

D. Commercial firewood sales

The Targhee will continue to offer commercial firewood sales through a charge program based on fair market values. The location and quantities will be determined by each district, annually. Commercial sales must be compatible with personal use wood programs. The portion of commercial sales to personal use volume will be determined by management needs, demand, and capability.

Sales will be sold on a bid basis unless the demand can be met.

The advantages to continuing a commercial firewood program are in providing continuing jobs for cutters and haulers, providing a wood service to those who don't want or can't cut their own deadwood, making deadwood receipts available for reforestation, and supplementing returns to the National Treasury and states.

A. Clearcutting and other harvest methods

An even aged system using primarily stand cutting (clearcutting) will be used in lodgepole. Lodgepole is a tree species that grows well in disturbed soil in hot sunny places. A clearcut provides ideal conditions for generation of lodgepole. Large clearcuts will help remove dead lodgepole quicker, more efficiently and more economically. The replanting and increased growth of other vegetation in clearcut areas will benefit livestock by providing cleared pathways and food. In some cases wildlife will also benefit; in others, clearcuts will be detrimental to wildlife. Fire hazard is reduced by large clearcuts, as are chances of mistletoe infection on newly planted trees. Clearcutting will occur on 13,000 acres per year.

Harvesting will continue with clearcuts of up to 100 acres in size in some areas where heavy mortality of lodgepole has occurred (more than 75%) and where the remaining stands no longer produce wildlife cover. In areas where there are important wildlife habitat such as big game winter range and calving areas, clearcuts will be 40 acres or less. In situation I grizzly bear habitat, clearcuts will be 20 acres or less. Winegar Hole is the only area excluded from timber harvest to give the grizzly bear priority. Alternative C affects 7200 acres of grizzly bear habitat per year for the next ten years.

Because of its importance to wildlife, Douglas-fir old growth habitat for wildlife will be maintained. Although all silvicultural systems will be used in Douglas-fir, the dominant technique will be shelterwood and selection for harvesting methods.

B. Cleanup of cutting areas

The Targhee will require taking care of slash quickly in cutting areas. "Slash" is unwanted debris materials of the tree such as small limbs, leaves, twigs and cones. In many cases contractors and wood gatherers must pile slash, if management objectives are to be met. The advantages of piled slash are the reduced fire hazards, improved visual quality, and easier access to excess wood.

Whenever possible, within a short time period, slash piles will be used for deadwood personal or commercial sales for products such as fence posts, poles, or firewood.

After useable products are removed, slash piles will be burned.

As we move through the decade, less and less slash will be burned and more slash will be available for product uses.

C. Reforestation

The major goal of the Targhee for next ten years is to change the timber situation of a dead forest back into a young, growing, green forest. Reforestation is therefore a key priority in accomplishing this goal. Alternative C will reforest 13,000 acres per year over the next ten years.

Natural regeneration will be the preferred reforestation method in areas with a percent probability of growing trees within 5 years after harvest.

A mixture of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine may be planted on former single species lodgepole pine timber areas. The mix of Douglas-fir planted will range from 20 to 50 percent of the total stocking per acre.

The reforestation backlog in cut areas will be eliminated by 1984. The "backlog" is the number of acres that have been cut in the past that are still not reforested.

All areas planned for artificial regeneration (tree planting), will be scheduled for planting no later than the second year after harvest. Areas with artificial regeneration will be reforested with a minimum of 450 trees per acre.

Seed will be collected from superior growing trees. The seed will be used to develop a superior planting stock. In lodgepole this is a tree that quickly grows tall and straight and has few limbs.

Machines, hand tools and/or chemicals will be used to prepare an area for planting or to help natural regeneration.

While young tree plantations are trying to grow, gophers will be poisoned when 300 or more evidences of recent push piles, earth-plugs, open holes and feeding areas occur per acre.

Vexar tubes will still be used and experimented with to protect young planted seedlings from gophers, livestock and wild animals.

Natural regeneration is preferred in situation I grizzly bear habitat if acceptable regrowth of new trees occurs. Gopher control will only occur when trees won't naturally regrow due to high gopher populations.

By replanting the same species in the same area where it is cut, the success for regeneration is much higher. Mixing species of Douglas-fir and lodgepole will reduce the chances of another pine bark beetle epidemic, provide better wildlife habitat diversity, and add better visual effects.

D. Control of undesireable vegetation in timber sale areas.

In tree plantations, herbicides will be used around young trees to reduce vegetation that keeps the trees from growing. Without competing grasses and weeds, more trees will survive and grow faster.

ISSUE #3 TIMBER (SALVAGE SALES & SUSTAINED YIELD)

What effect will a changing timber resource base have on timber management objectives and economic needs?

A. Salvage sales - insect-killed timber

Salvage sales for Alternative C are 84 million board feet (mmbf) per year for the next ten years. To meet this objective, salvage sales will be offered for all wood products in the form of "multiproduct" sales and will require "lump sum" payment based on the advance estimate of volume rather than measurement at time of removal. All products will be estimated and sold in cubic feet.

Most salvage sales will occur throughout the next 10 - 15 years. Greatest emphasis of salvage sales will be on the Island Park and Ashton Districts.

The advantages of harvesting the deadwood as quickly as possible are the chance to regenerate a new forest more quickly; the reduction of the current insect epidemic; more livestock and wildlife forage; and reduced fire danger.

B. Sustained yield

Until the lodgepole pine killed by the pine bark beetle is removed and the areas reforested, the Targhee will continue to depart from sustained yield. Once the dead lodgepole is removed from the Targhee and the forest is regenerated, average rotation for lodgepole will be 80 years with a long-term sustained yield of 214.88 million board feet.

The advantages of departure from sustained yield for lodgepole on the Targhee are the more rapid removal of overmature and diseased trees, more forage areas for livestock, and more economic benefit.

By starting out low on Douglas-fir removal, the Targhee will reduce wildlife impacts caused by lodgepole pine salvage. Douglas-fir will be cut on a nondeclining, sustained yield basis. The average rotation length is 140 years. Most removal will be in the Centennials.

C. Large Operation

The Targhee will continue to offer a mix of sale sizes, both large and small.

Sales will be offered in patterns that minimize need for construction of additional access roads.

Since green trees are better quality for mills, large sales will be offered first in areas where the most live lodgepole is likely to be killed by the pine bark beetle.

Supplemental funding for roading costs will be provided when available to encourage salvage of deadwood which otherwise would not be profitable and therefore not marketable.

Continued large sales will help the local economy and benefit large mills; guarantee quick, large-scale removal of dead and dying trees; pay for more permanent roads that can be used for other purposes; and requires less sale administration costs by Forest Service personnel.

ISSUE #4 INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

How should the Targhee National Forest manage present and future diseases and insect problems?

The Targhee will begin to create, at the end of the decade, a future sustained yield for the two dominant tree species on the Targhee, the Douglas-fir and the lodgepole pine. A set rotation period will help eliminate disease and insect problems that mainly afflict over-mature trees. Douglas-fir will have average rotation length of 140 years. Lodgepole pine will have an average rotation length of 80 years.

Clearcut and shelterwood silvicultural systems will be used in lodgepole pine or Douglas-fir stands having high mistletoe infection.

By planting some areas with a mixture of Douglas-fir and lodgepole, the chances of spreading diseases will be lessened. The Targhee will minimize losses by emphasizing species diversity and stand age patterns, although opportunity is somewhat limited.

We will use chemicals to control insects and disease where other methods can't be used or are not cost effective. The chemicals must be determined environmentally sound and cost effective before use.

Only one chemical spray, sevimol, has proven effective against the pine bark beetle. The spraying must be done early every year and cover each tree completely from top to bottom. Cost per tree is $6-8 and takes five minutes. Because of the high cost and time requirement, the entire forest can not be sprayed. Spraying will only occur on a yearly basis on still-green lodgepole trees in campgrounds and other high concentration recreation areas. In these places, aesthetics are greatly impaired should the trees die and need removal.

ISSUE #5 TIMBER (SMALL SALES)

At what level should the Targhee National Forest provide small sales for business and personal needs?

The Targhee will offer a mix of small sales to meet the needs of timber stands as well as small operators. Each district will offer annually small sales with a range of volumes. Emphasis will be on those of small size.

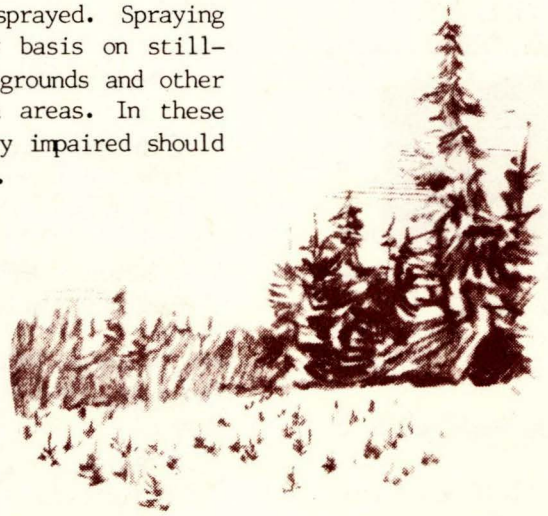
Posts and poles for personal use will be offered for sales by all districts.

Sales will be sold on a bid basis unless demand can be essentially met.

Benefits from small sales will continue economic support for small mills and small sales operators; provide posts and poles for individual use; and create an opportunity to improve timber stands such as thinning or removing remaining dead trees so the area can be replanted.

Christmas trees for personal use will be offered for sale each year where timber stands will not be harmed. The Christmas tree program will be announced by November 1.

By selling Christmas trees, we will provide families with an enjoyable recreation experience and an inexpensive way to get a Christmas tree; on some districts Christmas trees will be marked and sold to help thin young stands of trees that are too crowded; and we will return some revenue to the treasury.



ISSUE #6 RECREATION (DISPERSED)

How should the Targhee National Forest provide dispersed recreation opportunities for the spectrum of types of use while protecting forest resources?

The management actions described below apply to the following primary issue areas:

A. Conflicting uses
D. Access
E. Protection of forest resources

Dispersed recreation, particularly the type that requires few support facilities, will be emphasized. Alternative C provides a high level of opportunity for dispersed recreation, although the opportunity for primitive forms of recreation will gradually decline as the road network on the forest increases.

The Targhee will manage forest lands to provide a diversity of recreation opportunities ranging from "primitive" experiences such as backpacking, hiking, and snowmobiling to those activities commonly associated with roads and rural atmosphere. This wide range of opportunities will do much to prevent conflicting uses. The following table reflects the recreation opportunities by Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification (ROS). An ROS classification is not a legal designation such as wilderness, but rather, reflects the type of recreational activity for which land is suitable. It tends to change as roads or other facilities are built.

ROS Categories	Acres (1)
I Primitive	255,000
II Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	346,000
III Semi-Primitive Motorized	431,000
IV Roaded Natural	717,000
V Rural	88,000

(1) Reflects condition at end of decade.

Nonmotorized type recreation activities can occur in all Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes, but are most common in Classes I, II, and III. These ROS Classes (I, II, and III) include activities such as sightseeing, backpacking, trailbike riding in the backcountry, and fishing and hunting with 4-wheel type vehicles, by foot, or horseback. Those activities requiring motorized activities usually take place in Class IV and V.

To help reduce conflicts between users, protect forest resources and provide adequate access for dispersed recreation, the Targhee will update and implement a Forest Travel Plan annually. The public will be able to comment on proposed revisions or suggest changes in the Travel Plan every winter when the plan is updated. The plan will include trails and areas open and closed or restricted to motorized activities. Vehicular activity will normally be managed to meet recreational objectives of the indicated ROS class, although some exceptions will occur where vehicle use is established.

All roads, areas and trails that are closed or restricted will be signed at major access points.

Off-road vehicle use will be monitored according to an annual monitoring plan. Changes in vehicle regulations will be made to cope with resource problems identified as part of the monitoring process.

The designation of areas and trails as open, restricted or closed to off-road vehicle use shall be made in a manner which will, at a minimum:

- Promote user enjoyment.
- Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other natural, cultural and historic resources of the public lands.
- Minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitats.
- Minimize significant degradation of wildlife habitats.
- Promote the safety of all users of the public lands.

Advantages to reducing conflicts on some roads, areas and trails will be increased enjoyment, increased safety and better soil and water quality.

Trails on land and water will be allocated for different types of uses. For example, some trails will be designated cross-country skiing only or snowmobiling only to reduce conflict. Some trails will remain open to all uses.

B. Construction and maintenance of facilities

The Targhee will continue to maintain trail systems with associated trailhead facilites. Some new trails and facilities will be programmed for construction.

The Targhee will cooperate with local and state agencies to determine priorities for grooming trails and parking areas for snowmobiles and cross-country skiing.

The Targhee will also provide recreational improvement in cooperation with private and other agencies when appropriate. Examples might be trails crossing several ownerships, trailheads providing access to several ownerships, parking areas, and other support facilities.

The Targhee will maintain 50% of the forest trail system annually at Levels 1 through 3. Level 1 trails are maintained at a custodial level only, for primitive experiences. Level 2 trails are maintained for near-primitive experience such as some rustic structures for stream crossings and tread maintained for public safety. Level 3 Trails are maintained for intermediate experiences recognizing safety and user convenience as part of tread maintenance.

Trails to be maintained will be identified in individual Ranger District Trail Maintenance Plans. Trails within "full service management" areas will be maintained to specific standards. Full Service Management of dispersed recreation areas indicates that the area is administered in accordance with a site specific management plan for recreation use. The West Slope of the Tetons and a part of the Palisades area are examples of localities planned for such management. Areas not planned for Full Service Management are by definition, managed at Reduced Service Level.

The Continental Divide Trail and other Congressionally designated trails will be located, constructed, and managed according to requirements of the legislation. Some existing trails that meet the criteria for National Recreation Trails status, will be nominated and managed as required by law.

The advantages of emphasizing new or upgraded facilities and improvements of the forest trail system will be increased opportunities for more people to enjoy dispersed recreation; safer trails; better access; better protection of other forest resources; increased comfort and convenience; and more opportunities to disperse persons to less used areas.

Dispersed Recreation has increased dramatically on the Targhee National Forest since the 1970's. Alternative C will maintain the opportunity to meet these new demands by providing a full range of quality recreation settings for people desiring increased dispersed opportunities.

C. Enforcement of rules and regulations

(see issue #19)

ISSUE #7 RECREATION (DEVELOPED)

How much developed recreation should the Targhee National Forest provide?

Developed recreation is recreation that centers around and requires the use of facilities. Examples are picnic areas and campgrounds; commercial special-use sites built and operated by particular groups such as scouts and churches; and private special-use sites such as summer homes.

Although developed recreation was low on the final value scales of forest professionals and the general publics, the opportunity for high levels of development was present in all alternatives, including Alternative C. The Alternatives Formulation Team found that there were few, if any, tradeoffs with developed recreation no matter what other major issue element was maximized. The developed recreation sites themselves occupy such small acreage (approximately 1,684 acres) out of the 1.8 million acres on the Targhee and thus don't present much of an impact. In addition, we have an abundance of potential sites for recreation development. Through the first 10 year planning period, however, the Targhee will develop few new sites. Instead we will concentrate on maintenance and rehabilitation of existing ones. We also anticipate that privately financed developments for public or private use will be limited, although the existing Grand Targhee Ski Area will probably expand.

A. Facilities-Public
B. Protection and maintenance

Scenic beauty and shade from trees is an important part of a recreation experience. The Targhee will establish and maintain a desireable vegetative cover around camping units in certain campgrounds that have lost many trees due to the pine bark beetle infestation. In selected campgrounds where the beetle has not killed the trees, the Targhee will remove dead trees or other trees providing a safety hazard before the campgrounds are opened to the public. Trees will be replanted in campgrounds that have lost their forest cover.

Developed sites adjacent to proposed wilderness areas or access to proposed areas will be designed and operated to accommodate persons planning to enter the undeveloped areas. Facilities such as ramps, hitch racks, parking, and information and map boards will be provided.

Developed sites adjacent to proposed wilderness areas or access to proposed areas will be designed for this use. The Targhee will provide facilities for loading, unloading and handling of livestock at developed trailheads on a priority basis as demand increases.

Maintenance priorities will be given to developed facilities receiving the heaviest use. Sites that can not be maintained to acceptable health and safety requirements will be closed until they can be brought up to standard. The opening and closing dates for facilities will be determined by the most efficient and cost-effective use. Limits of stay for certain areas will be established to provide an opportunity for more people to use highly desireable sites. Low use developed sites that have exceptionally high maintenance costs will be phased out.

User fees will be required for all campground family units that provide the following services and facilities: tent or trailer spaces, drinking water, access roads, garbage containers, toilets, visitor protection, and fire rings or grills. These fees are based on the quality of the sites and the comparable costs charged by adjacent forests, parks, and local commercial campground vendors. Fees must be similar to commercial fees with similar facilities so that commercial facilities can effectively compete.

C. Enforcement of rules and regulations

(see issue #19, Law Enforcment)

D. Private facilities/Special uses

The Targhee will encourage private commercial recreation development on Forest land or nearby private land, in lieu of government investment in facilities whenever practical and demand warrants.

The Targhee will administer 50% of exclusive (summer homes) permits, and 70% of non-exclusive (resorts, organization camps) permits to Full Service Management (FSM) levels. The balance will be managed at Reduced Service Management (RSM) levels. FSM (Full Service Management) for developed recreation sites refers to service that meets all standards and management objectives. Examples of "standards" is providing for safety, comfort and maintenance. Examples of management objectives are seasonal demands for public use, site capacity, or enhancing a visitor's experience with desired levels of service.

When RSM (Reduced Service Management) occurs, the developed sites are operated and maintained below established standard and management objectives. The reason for RSM is usually due to inadequate funding or the fact that water is not being furnished because water quality test results have been inadequate.

No new recreation residence tracts (summer homes) will be established. Existing recreation home permits will be renewed or placed on definite tenure based on public need for the site. Adequate notice will be provided of tenure decisions.

Summer home special use areas not directly restricting or encumbering public access or use will be granted 20 year term permits with a common expiration date of the year 2002. Those restricting, encumbering, and/or having the potential to do so will be granted 10 year term permits to the year 1992 without renewal clauses.

The Targhee will encourage private capital to develop needed public recreation facilities such as ski areas or resorts. The determining factor will be public need rather than simple profit opportunity. Expansion of existing facilities will also be allowed under the same conditions.

New construction of recreation facilities will be minimal in the first decade. The identified sites and potential ski areas expected to be needed in the next 20 years will be protected to assure that the availability and desireability are retained. Prior to any new development, a site specific environmmental assessment will be prepared.

Alternative C will provide 853 thousand RVD's average per year for the next ten years for developed recreation. RVD's are Recreation Visitor Days which are computed by totaling 12 person hours as equal to one RVD. Twelve person hours can be figured as one person for 12 hours, 12 persons for one hour, 3 persons for 4 hours, or any other equivalents. Alternative C will also provide 13,079 PAOT (people at one time) capacity average for the next ten years. PAOT is the number of people that can be accommodated on the forest at the same time.

By emphasizing maintenance of current developed facilities without limited expansion, the Targhee expects to meet recreation demands for the next ten years. Public safety will continue as the number one priority. By planning during these ten years for expansion in the following ten years, the Targhee will have the capability to meet expected rising population uses and demands.

ISSUE #8 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

At what level should the Targhee protect or enhance wildlife and fish habitat considering population management objectives of state wildlife agencies?

A. Protect habitat

The Targhee will maintain habitats needed to support current levels of native vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Riparian Guidelines established on the Targhee in June, 1981, will be followed. Riparian areas are areas that interface between land and water environments and whose vegetation shows the influence of that water. This unique riparian ecosystem comprises only about 1% of the total land area on the Targhee but has the most intense use and competition. Conflicts among uses on these areas are more pronounced due to lush vegetation, plant diversity, proximity to water and limited acreage. Some wildlife are totally dependent on riparian areas.

Some examples of riparian guidelines are:

- attaching clauses for protection of riparian areas in timber contracts.

- stream fencing to exclude wildlife and livestock.

- planting of willow to stablize streambanks.

- rip-rapping eroding streambanks.

- removal of dead lodgepole for firewood.

- following state guidelines for gold dredging operations.

- allowing no construction of new campgrounds or oil and gas wells within the 100 year flood plain.

- designing bridges and culverts for specified peak flows and providing for fish passage.

- constructing roads in riparian areas only at stream crossings.

An inventory will be completed by 1990 on existing fish and wildlife habitat to provide additional site specific data. The inventory will include gathering data on 1) aquatic habitats 2) coniferous old growth 3) aspen habitat and 4) riparian habitat.

The priority for inventory studies will be:

1) old growth - Old growth is essentially a mature or overmature forest more or less uninfluenced by human activity. Old growth is generally a stand of large diameter mature trees. On the Targhee, old growth generally refers to 140 year old or older Douglas-fir ecosystems. Many species of wildlife need old growth for survival.

2) aspen

3) riparian habitats

Monitoring changes in habitat and its effects on wildlife will occur only with the following selected indicator species of plants and wildlife:

WILDLIFE			
T & E Species	Special Habitat Needs	Hunted and Fished	Indicators of Habitats
Grizzly bear	Williamson's sapsucker (Conifers)	Antelope	Brewers sparrow
Bald eagle	Pika (Rock & Talus)	Elk	Goshawk
	Mountain goat (Alpine)	Trout	Aquatic invertebrates
		Mallard	

Some habitats do not have good animal indicators. These will be monitored by using specific plants shown below.

PLANT COMMUNITIES			
Wet Meadows	Grassland	Alpine	Riparian
Hairgrass	Idaho Fescue	Bluebell	Willow
Corex species	Bluebunch wheatgrass	Paintbrush	Alder
		Sheep fescue	
		Alpine timothy	

One of the major impacts upon wildlife on the Targhee are roads, particularly for wildlife such as elk or eagles that are extremely intolerant of nearby human activity.

New roads will not be made within ½ mile of known critical areas whenever there is another feasible alternative.

Typical critical or key wildlife areas are seasonal habitats used for such activities as reproduction (calving), winter ranges, and migration routes.

In these key areas, the Targhee will reduce human disturbance by regulating vehicle use on roads or areas during the critical seasons. Monitoring of vehicle use will identify needed changes in ORV regulations. The Forest Travel Plan will be revised each year, showing roads and areas that are closed or where vehicles are restricted to protect wildlife.

Vehicles off roads will not be permitted on key winter ranges at any time, and road use will be restricted in these areas as well. Maintaining undisturbed winter range is the most critical stage in the continued survival of many wildlife species. Most roads will also be closed on winter ranges during the winter.

In alternative C, old growth timber will be retained on 3 percent of the timber lands (26 thousand acres) to provide habitat for old growth dependent species. Resource activities on the Targhee will affect 6.1 thousand acres of elk spring, summer, and fall ranges and 2.3 thousand elk winter range acres per year.

Alternative C provides low to moderate livestock wildlife competition for forage. The Targhee will try to improve range forage so that more food will be available for both.

Since minerals is a heavily impacted issue group in alternative C, recommended stipulations will favor maintenance of wildlife habitat and populations. Generally, the required actions will be of a. nature to need close coordination with other resource values, and adjustment in mineral-related activities to hold other resource impacts to a moderate level.

Timber harvest, which requires many roads, is the resource activity that currently impacts wildlife to the greatest degree on the Targhee. An important component of big game habitat on the Targhee is "cover" (trees which provide hiding places and temperature regulation for the animals). Cover will be an important consideration in calving areas, rutting (mating) grounds, and wallows. These areas will be given priority by requiring timber sales to leave a 40/60 cover/forage ratio. This means that 40% of the area will remain for cover and 60% of the area will be available for forage. Clearcuts will not exceed 40 acres within these key critical areas. The clearcuts will be distributed 600' between cutting units. Adjacent drainages will not be logged at the same time. This will provide barriers between animals and the logging disturbance. Occasional exceptions to this direction are authorized in individual management areas where the critical need for lodgepole salvage and reforestation is paramount.

B. Enhance habitat

The Targhee will improve at least 9660 acres or acre equivalents of habitat each year. Generally habitat improvement means that necessary vegetation eaten by animals and which provide cover and shelter are given a chance to grow or become established. This is usually done by a prescribed fire, chemical removal (spraying) of undesireable plants, and planting. Habitat improvement projects are designed to decrease unwanted plants through burning or spraying while increasing desireable plants important as forage.

Improving big game habitat food and cover will generally be done where production is less than 60% of the potential.

In some areas, range lands used jointly by wildlife and livestock, will be improved to at least fair or better standards.

In key seasonal habitats, the Targhee will allocate enough forage to feed the specified numbers of big game animals using Targhee winter ranges.

In some riparian areas, fisheries habitat will be improved as indicated in specific management units.

Alternative C provides 2440 acres of big game habitat improvement on the average per year.

The lodgepole timber stands on the Forest provide little habitat diversity since they are about the same age and large blocks have died or are dying due to the bark beetle. Once these stands are regenerated and managed over the next 80 years their diversity will increase as their age spread increased. In addition some sites will have Douglas-fir trees planted on them.

The Douglas-fir timber as it currently exists is highly diverse by nature of its scattered patchy stands in many areas. Management of this timber will probably decrease diversity since the objectives are to harvest it before maturity. Since cover and forage are near optimum in many areas, removal of cover decreases natural diversity.

Overall, the opportunity to enjoy the fish and wildlife resource on the forest should increase as key habitats are identified and protected.

C. Cooperation

The Targhee is responsible, by law, for managing the habitat of wildlife. Wildlife per se are managed by the state wildlife agencies. For either agency to be successful, it is important that their programs be coordinated.

The Targhee will utilize the expertise of Idaho and Wyoming States' Fish and Game Departments in environmental analysis of forest projects and in land management planning activities.

State Fish and Game Departments will be assisted in wildlife activities, such as tagging, as needed and when requested.

The Targhee will meet at least once a year with State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to update plans, define operating objectives, and schedule work needing coordination.

The Targhee will cooperate with state wildlife agencies in managing for mutually adopted population numbers for fish and wildlife habitats.

Status of Management Indicator Species for the Targhee and Their Habitats

Management Indicator Species	Est. Pop. Size and Trend 1/	Acres of Habitat	Condition of Habitat 4/ and Trend
Grizzly bear	17 2/ →	34,000	Good →
Bald eagle	5 pairs →	25,000	Good →
Williamson's Sapsucker	Abundant →	829,000	Fair ↓
Pika	Abundant →	53,300	Good →
Mountain Goat	220 ↑	47,200	Good →
Antelope	3,000 →	77,000	Fair →
Elk 3/	5,775 ↑	SU 889,000 W 95,900 C 105,000	Fair ↓
Trout	Abundant →	25,000	Good →
Mallard	Common →	25,300	Good →
Brewers Sparrow	Abundant →	121,200	Good →
Goshawk	40 pairs ↓	829,000	Fair ↓
Aquatic Invertebrates	Abundant →	5,500	Good →

1/ Upward Trend ↑ Downward Trend ↓ Static →

2/ Not all grizzlies are on Targhee at one time. Some may only use Forest one year out of three or more depending on current food supplies.

3/ SU = Summer range W = Winter range C = Calving areas

4/ Conditions of habitat: Three habitat components were evaluated for habitat condition: food, water, and cover. Good condition refers to adequate quantities and qualities of the three components. Fair condition refers to less than adequate quantity or quality for one of the habitat components. The present dead condition of the lodgepole pine of the Forest resulted in a fair rating for some of the species.

ISSUE #9 WILDLIFE (THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES)

How shall special management for threatened, endangered and sensitive species be coordinated with other resources?

The endangered species of the Targhee are: the American bald eagle; the American peregrine falcon (none are presently on the Forest, several transplant opportunities are being proposed); whooping crane (none at present, but there is possibility in the near future due to work at Greys Lake National Wildlife Refuge); and the gray wolf (currently no population on forest, perhaps an occasional visitor).

The threatened species on the Targhee is the grizzly bear.

The proposed threatened species is the plant Crypthantha hypsophila (white forget-me-not).

The proposed endangered species is the plant Papavar kluanese (Artic poppy).

The Forest plan for these species is entitled "Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species and Their Habitats on the Targhee National Forest" (T & E Plan) and is available at any Forest Service office.

A. Grizzly bear management

The Targhee will manage the grizzly and its habitat in accordance with the Threatened and Endangered Species Act requirements and the "Guidelines for Management Involving Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area".

The Yellowstone guidelines and the Targhee's grizzly situation areas were developed and delineated in cooperation with State Fish and Game Departments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team. Essentially, in Situation 1 areas, the bear and its habitat receive the highest management priorities. Most Situation 1 areas (about 10% of the Forest) border Yellowstone National Park. Grizzlies are most frequently seen on the Targhee in three locations. The two Districts with all Situation 1 areas are Ashton and Island Park Ranger Districts.

Alternative C will affect 7.2 thousand acres per year of grizzly Situation 1 habitat due to timber harvest. Although this habitat will be

impacted in the short range, there should be high, long range benefits. After the removal of the dead lodgepole, diversity of plants will increase. Since the diet of grizzly bears is mainly from plants, the bear will benefit greater from the increased growth in a diversity of plants. This diversity occurs when clearcutting of lodgepole occurs with bear habitat objectives in mind and if access is properly managed.

In Situation 2 and 3 areas, which comprise the remaining 90% of the Forest, the bear and its habitat are not major management concerns.

Other forest activites such as logging, grazing and recreation will occur in Situation 1 areas. These activities will be tailored to benefit the grizzly bear whenever possible. When there is a conflict, these activities will be suspended or modified to meet bear needs.

The bear is legally protected in all areas. However, in Situation 2 or 3 areas, when a problem bear occurs, a review committee will decide the best action to take. Problem bears can be trapped and relocated; in some rare cases where the bear is a threat to human life, the committee can decide to have the bear killed.

There are several "sensitive" species on the Forest. A detailed listing is found in the Forest T & E Plan. At present, no known T & E plants exist on the Targhee. Two proposed plants may exist on the Forest, but documentation has not occurred.

The Targhee will monitor all forest activities to ensure wildlife management objectives are being met. Monitoring will occur in critical or key habitats and will measure the quantity and quality of habitats for indicator species by Forest Service biologists on an annual basis. An indicator species is an animal or plant whose presence and survival in a particular area represents (or "indicates") the presence and survival of many other wildlife or plant species requiring similar habitats. By knowing that the indicator species is in an area, a manager can assume the other species are also in the area.

C. Studies and coordination with other agencies

The Targhee will consult with State Fish and Game Departments and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all projects that may affect threatened and endangered species.

The Targhee will cooperate with other agencies in developing recovery plans and habitat management guidelines for Targhee's threatened and endangered species. The Targhee will implement the resulting plans and guidelines.

Much is not known about the Grizzly species. The Targhee will continue to cooperate with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team on their radio collaring and monitoring recovery plans for the grizzly.

B. Other T & E species management

The Targhee will manage threatened and endangered species (plants and animals) and their habitats to meet the Threatened and Endangered Species Management Plan. A principal objective is to aid in recovery of populations of threatened or endangered species (T & E species).

All management activities and practices in threatened and endangered species habitat will be designed to benefit those species whenever possible.

Other threatened and endangered species besides the grizzly are the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and gray wolf. The bald eagle, a resident of the Forest, will receive special management as outlined in the Forest T & E Plan. There are historic peregrine falcon nest sites. Historic refers to documented sightings. Reintroduction of this species is being planned. Whooping cranes are using areas immediately adjacent to the Forest and are expected to be found here occasionally. Historic wolf range exists on the Forest but there are now no known wolves and no immediate plans to reintroduce them.

ISSUE #10 RANGE

How should the Targhee National Forest provide a grazing resource while protecting other resources?

A. Amount of use

Alternative C will increase the forest's carrying capacity for range from its current level of 162 thousand AUM's to 172 thousand AUM's, annual average, for the 10 year period. Areas where these increases will occur are scattered evenly throughout the districts and will not be concentrated in any one area. Increases will be for both sheep and cattle.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Targhee will adjust management practices to place adjoining BLM and Forest Service range allotments under coordinated management.

A Forest Range Environmental Study (FRES) identifies different levels of allotments. FRES, level D, is usually the most desireable type of allotment because it reflects intensive management. One third the Targhee, mainly cattle allotments, are at this level. The Targhee will require use of all known, available technology to improve vegetation and structural improvements on allotments that are not level D. The Targhee will give priority for livestock production increase on level D allotments.

By slightly increasing the Targhee's range carrying capacity, more meat and wool will be produced and more local revenue and employment will be made available.

B. Allotment improvements

All allotments will be placed under "quality" management by 1988. To accomplish this, the Targhee will rewrite allotment plans that are unsatisfactory. Allotments where no plans exist will receive an environmental analysis and new plans will be written. The plans will be prioritized. The plans will identify and schedule all forage and structure improvements.

Each new or revised allotment plan will specify the percent of key plant species production allocated to cattle or sheep.

As the new or revised plans are implemented, all allotments will strive to improve the condition for all ranges that are in less than satisfactory ecological condition. Examples of measurements for levels of "less than satisfactory ecological condition" are a variety of unacceptable plants not native to the area such as thistles, plants unplatable to livestock, soil conditions with less plant cover than it should have in order to prevent erosion, or poor water quality.

The Targhee will initiate the improvement of 10,000 acres of poor and very poor condition ranges each year. The total acres in these classes are 125,000.

When improvements are made, by burning or spraying brush, an Environmental analysis will be used for the project. By eliminating undesireable or overmature plants such as sagebrush, mule ear dock or other weedy species, grasses and other forage beneficial to livestock will replace them. Plants desireable for livestock feed are usually desireable for wildlife, although in some areas it will be necessary to leave some species, such as sagebrush, for wildlife.

All livestock water developments will be located within 1 mile of suitable range.

No revegetation or brush control will be used to increase livestock forage on unsuitable lands.

By improving the poor condition land on range allotments, there will be an increase in water and soil quality and removal of noxious weeds as well as an added ability to accommodate more livestock.

C. Predator control

The Targhee will maintain an effective predator control program in cooperation with other state and federal agencies having predator control authority and responsibility.

Areas where predator control can be conducted shall be indicated on maps and approved by the Forest Supervisor and the State Wildlife and Fish Agency's Regional Supervisor at scheduled annual meetings. Advance approval from District Rangers prior to deviation from approved control locations or procedures will be required.

Predator control activity will be based on annual livestock losses and emergency situations. Control will be conducted away from human concentrations, such as recreation areas and trails. Locations of lethal bait stations and traps will be posted on the ground.

Predator control activities will be coordinated with State wildlife and fish agencies to meet specific management guidelines and to protect recreationists in concentrated areas or during periods of heavy use. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted prior to control of any species which may affect threatened and endangered species.

Control measures will be as specific as possible to target species and offending animals. In other words, the controls will attempt to eliminate the problem only, not other wildlife or plantlife.

Steel bear traps can not be used on forest lands.

Persons wishing to remove other animals causing predation problems must get written approval from the District Ranger before removal. Animals taken for sport must be in accordance with State Fish and Game regulations.

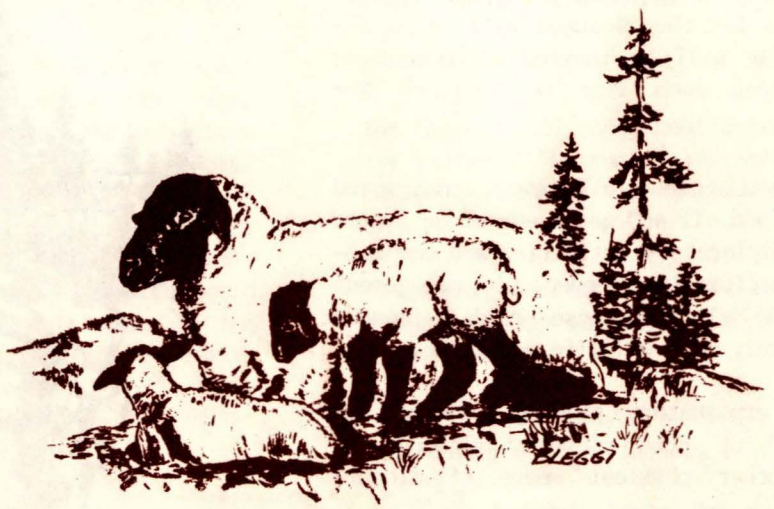
While trapping for coyotes and black bears, if another predator is caught, it will be released unless severely injured.

By allowing predator control in certain areas, the Targhee will help permittees decrease sheep and cattle losses.

D. Other resource protection

The Targhee will manage livestock in the riparian areas according to National (Washington D.C.), Regional (Ogden, Utah), and Forest riparian direction.

When allowing livestock forage, the Targhee will also provide adequate forage to meet big game population objectives set in cooperation with State Fish and Game agencies. This guideline will particularly hold true in key wildlife winter range allotments. Adequate forage supplies for wildlife during the winter is particularly crucial to species survival.



ISSUE #11 TRANSPORTATION

How should the Targhee National Forest resolve the physical, economic, and resource impact of road construction, use and closures?

A. Open versus closed

The Targhee will maintain the existing level of vehicular access to National Forest lands.

Existing open roads will remain open unless closures are needed to:

- protect the habitat of threatened and/or endangered species.
- prevent unacceptable water and/or soil damage.
- protect key wildlife summer and winter range habitat.
- provide public safety.
- minimize conflicts between users.

This year, 1981, the Targhee has 2,036 miles of roads. Fourteen percent have seasonal closures (for more information about this, see the wildlife issue). About 4% of these roads are closed year-round.

A yearly Off-Road Vehicle Plan will be updated and published annually. Most Targhee forest development roads will be displayed on the map. Road and area closures will be labeled and the reason for the closures will be on the map. The public will be invited to comment on proposed changes each year before they are finalized.

The Targhee will close all newly constructed timber access and oil and gas roads after a timber sale or exploratory activities are completed unless specifically needed for management activities. By closing these roads, impacts will be temporary upon wildlife and fisheries.

Gating with explanatory signing will be the normal method of road closure, although in some cases other physical means of closure will be used.

Temporary access may be allowed for scheduled activities such as: firewood gathering, reforestation, timber stand improvement, range improvement, fire management, mineral exploration and other resource management.

B. New construction

Alternative C will require an average of 36 miles of road construction or reconstruction per year for the next ten years.

Resource management needs to determine the amount and kind of additional roads needed.

C. Maintenance

Cost is a major concern in the maintenance of roads. Although timber sales partially pay for road maintenance, other uses such as gathering firewood or sightseeing do not.

Most maintenance occurs during the summer months when use is heaviest.

Maintenance priorities will be:

(1) Regulatory and warning signing

(2) Drainage

(3) Road preservation and adjacent resource protection

(4) User comfort and convenience

D. Enforcement

(see issue #9)

ISSUE #12 MINERALS

How can the Targhee National Forest identify, manage and mitigate the impacts of exploration and development of minerals and nonrenewable resources?

A. Utilization

The Targhee will review and process mineral lease applications permits and licenses in a timely fashion. The Targhee will recommend to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) measures and stipulations necessary to protect surface resources. The BLM is in charge of issuing all federal leases for minerals, whether the lease is on National Forest, National Park, or BLM lands. The Targhee is responsible only for surface resources on Targhee lands. Stipulations are the means by which the Targhee protects surface resources that might be harmed. BLM has the final say on stipulations but has always acccepted Forest Service recommendations in the past when the lease is on Forest Service land.

Alternative C will significantly constrain mineral exploration and development since minerals are the least compatible issue group within the thrust of the alternative. Generally speaking, the constraints will be in the form of special stipulations in leases based on various landform, resource, and environmental factors identified in the management units.

This alternative stresses the use of restrictive lease stipulations to provide protection to forest values. This does not mean, however, that there will be no exploration. It means that companies engaged in mineral activities will exercise extra efforts to protect the resources rather than accepting loss of surface resource values. An example might be an exploratory oil rig in a key elk winter range. Timing of the drilling would have to be adjusted to not interfere with the elk use. Other activities would be restricted while the animals were in the area. In some cases, rigs might not be permitted on important wildlife areas.

Oil and Gas

Oil and gas exploration lease applications have increased dramatically on the Targhee during the last 5 years. The discovery of oil in portions of the Overthrust Belt in other intermountain states plus the gas shortage has sparked this interest. All portions of the Overthrust Belt on the Targhee are leased or are pending leasing. These areas are the Palisades, Lemhis, and Italian Peaks. Seismic exploration is the most common activity at this time, One application to drill (APD) has been postponed due to a change in company priorities.

The mineral potential of further planning areas will continue as directed by RARE II (the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation). Before further planning areas can be recommended for either wilderness or nonwilderness status, the mineral potential must be evaluated.

There are two further planning areas which await this evaluation on the Targhee: Palisades and the Italian Peaks.

Evaluations will include consultation with other agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, universities, Forest Service specialists and industries.

The Targhee will process all applications for permits to drill for energy exploration activities. An environmental analysis will be written for all operating plans. Both EA's will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team.

The activity of exploration for oil and gas, including exploratory drilling, is separate from the activity of developing an active field or group of wells and will require an additional environmental assessment.

Coal

The Targhee will apply coal leasing "unsuitability criteria" in the evaluation of lease applications. Examples of "unsuitability criteria" are:

- scenic federal lands designated as Class I (outstanding scenic quality or high visual sensitivity).

- all sites with historical, archaeological, or cultural significance.

- all federal lands designated as natural areas or national natural landmarks.

- all federal lands with critical habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species.

Coal leasing interest is highest in the Big Hole mountains west of Driggs in an area which was previously mined for coal. Alternative C provides for lease approval for a portion of these lands.

Geothermal

The Targhee has several geothermal lease applications pending action in the Island Park area. An environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared to access the impacts of development of this resource. Of primary concern to government agencies and publics was the effect of drilling on thermal features in Yellowstone National Park. The EIS provides for several preliminary steps to be taken prior to lease issuance to protect these features. Currently, leasing action is suspended pending resolution of an appeal of the EIS.

Phosphate

Phosphate is another mineral resource found on the Targhee. Exploration and development activities, however, have not taken place for several years since the first activity some 20 to 30 years ago. Very little activity other than reclamation work is expected to take place in the next ten years. This is due to the rich and abundant phosphate reserves in the Soda Springs, Idaho area, which are capable of meeting demands for this mineral far into the future - possibly for the next 50 - 100 years.

"Hardrock" Minerals

The Targhee will administer active mining claims under 1972 Mining Laws. The Targhee will respond to proposed operating plans within thirty days of receipt. Active mining claims will be inspected at least once during the operating season.

Requests for a mineral examination will be made under the following conditions to see if claims are validly held and occupied:

a. land upon which a claim is located but was withdrawn from minerals entry prior to location.

b. a lack of sufficient mineral discovery.

c. a claim that is in trespass by being illegally occupied or used.

d. a claim that occupies lands needed for administrative or public purposes such as road access.

Common Varieties

The Targhee will manage common variety minerals, including gravel pits, by lease, sale or free use. The Targhee will grant permits on lands covered also by other leases or permits only when removal will not unduly interfere with the first permit.

Permits will not be granted in the following areas:

(1) Lands withdrawn from mineral entry or under study for withdrawal such as developed recreation sites.

(2) Riparian zones (except below high water line of Palisades Reservoir).

(3) Within ¼ mile of or in view of high recreation use areas such as campgrounds (developed or undeveloped), travel routes (including trails), and water bodies. Where screened adequately from view by natural topographic features, mineral material sources may be developed closer than ¼ mile on a site specific basis.

(4) High mass stability areas (where landslides could occur).

(5) Primary bald eagle and osprey nest zones, elk wallows and special wildlife areas designated in specific locator units.

(6) Special use sites such as corrals or wells.

(7) On a valid mining claim except with owner's consent.

The Targhee will continue to utilize existing gravel sources. Proposed sites will be utilized if the following criteria are met:

a. no existing site that could provide suitability aggregrate is already located within one mile of the proposed sites.

b. environmental assessment will support the decision for the site.

c. the site complies with the criteria required for common variety mineral material permits.

B. Protection

The Targhee will administer active leasable mineral activities (oil and gas, coal, geothermal and phosphate) under a joint operating plan with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

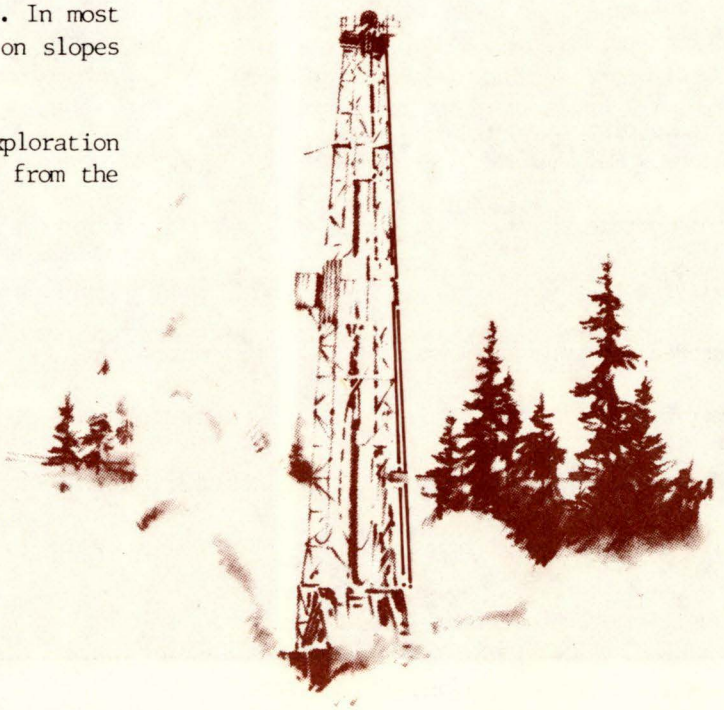
One of the three major causes of impacts from mineral activities are the roads built for access. In the Overthrust Belt on the Targhee, where the probability of minerals discovery is high, the land is also very steep. This is especially true in the Palisades area. Steep terrain makes road building difficult. In most instances, roads will not be allowed on slopes in excess of 40%.

The second major impact from mineral exploration development is the disposal of waste from the activities.

The third is air pollution which can be especially harmful or dangerous if poisonous sulphur gas escapes into the atmosphere. The Targhee will conduct periodic reviews to ensure that surface protection and reclamation requirements stipulated in a lease are being followed. With USGS, unacceptable activities will be corrected.

The Targhee will include the following stipulations where it applies to all leasable and non-leasable mineral proposals. Stipulations may be modified to accommodate specific mineral types.

By allowing oil and gas exploration and development to occur on Targhee lands, we will help the nation find and use mineral reserves independent of foreign powers. Recommendations of strict stipulations and enforcement with USGS of compliance with the stipulations will continue to protect wildlife, visuals, soil and water and other valuable surface resources.



LEASING STIPULATIONS

STIPULATION	WHERE IT APPLIES
1. Visual (road structure)	Areas with visual quality objective (VQO) of retention, campgrounds
2. No surface occupancy adjacent to roads, creeks, etc.	Riparian areas, roads with VQO of retention, campgrounds
3. No drilling adjacent to historical sites, archeological sites, etc.	Archeological and historical sites, campgrounds
4. Steep slopes - no surface occupancy	Slopes greater than 40%
5. Seasonal use - no surface occupancy	As needed to protect seasonal wildlife habitat
6. Muddy or wet periods	All areas
7. Restricted trail/road use	All areas
8. Visual - painting or camouflage	Areas with VQO of retention and partial retention
9. No surface occupancy, may replace #4	High mass stability areas, administrative sites, research natural areas
10. Combination of #2 & #3	Retention/partial retention areas, riparian areas, campgrounds
11. No surface disturbance, exploration next to ... May replace #4 & #5	Seasonal wildlife habitat, steep slopes
12. Limited surface use	ROS I & retention/partial retention of VQO areas
13. Activity coordination	Threatened and endangered species habitat
14. Threatened and endangered species	Threatened and endangered species habitat
15. Further planning areas (FPA)	Further planning areas
16. Coordinated exploration (FPA)	Further planning areas
17. Conditional no surface occupancy (FPA)	Further planning areas

ISSUE #13 FIRE MANAGEMENT

How much protection from wildfire and how much use of prescribed fire is necessary to meet resource management objectives?

Recognizing fire as a necessary tool to achieve forest management objectives, the Targhee will allow natural fires to burn in some instances. This occurs only in locations where the resource damage is expected to be less than the cost of suppression, and where no homes or persons' lives could be in danger. Accidental or intentional man caused fires will be suppressed. Some areas will be burned on purpose by trained firefighters under the right conditions, the right weather, and the right number of personnel (called prescribed fires) in order to manage the vegetation for specific purposes such as wildlife or livestock.

Most plants have adjusted to periodic fires by developing features such as thick bark, high branches, large seed supply, root suckering, and cones that require heat to open. Tree species most adapted to frequent fires grow best on a burned area soon after the fire. Lodgepole pine, western larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir benefit from increased nutrients, soil free from litter, ample sunshine, and reduced competition from other plants. In contrast, spruce, subalpine fir, grand fir, and western red cedar, which prefer partial shade and plenty of moisture, can grow successfully under the canopy of trees which follow the fire. Nearly all of the shrubs and herbs in our forest resprout from root suckers after fires.

Fire is an important agent of a diverse ecosystem; diversity provides food, cover, and shelter for more wildlife. Therefore, the Targhee will use fire in selected areas as a management tool.

A. Wildfire

Each wildfire that achieves management objectives (such as more forbs for wildlife food) must be within a reasonable cost. The Targhee will provide fast, energetic, thorough fire suppression with a high regard for personal safety. Every wildfire will be confined, contained, or controlled.

If the wildfire escapes initial (the first) attack, the next step in suppression will be decided by an Escaped Fire Analysis (EFA). The EFA will consider such things as cost versus resource loss, weather conditions, safety of the public and/or firefighters, liklihood of spreading, and protection of property.

The Targhee will establish and maintain fuel "mosaics" (patterns of different types and sizes of vegetation including trees, shrubs and grasses). The mosaics will reduce fire hazard and the spreading potential of wildfire; reduce cost and loss of a wildfire; improve aesthetics (a variety of vegetation is generally more pleasing to the eye than the monotony of one dominant species such as miles of lodgepole or sagebrush); and reestablish a natural plant succession.

B. Prescribed fire

The Targhee will use prescribed fire when it is cost effective to achieve other resource objectives. Prescribed fire is fire purposefully set in the right conditions by trained firefighters. An environmental analysis (EA) will be made on all uses of prescribed fire. All uses of prescribed fire will be in accordance with an approved burning plan.

The Targhee will apply Fire Management Plans in selected areas to permit the use of natural fire (lightning) in management.

Fire Management Areas

Three Fire Management Areas are designated on the Targhee: the High Country, the Big Hole, and the West Slope Fire Management Plans.

The High Country Fire Management Plan

The High Country Fire Management Area consists of 289,865 acres above 8,000 feet elevation. Fires within these areas will be classified naturally confined fires or suppression fires (fires needing action to contain or control the blaze). Classification will be made by a qualified Firefighter Division Boss. A "naturally confined fire" is confined by natural barriers, such as rocky slope, or weather conditions, such as a heavy rainstorm. Such fires have a limited potential to exceed 10 acres. All fires will be

suppressed on private and state lands at this elevation. All smoke dispersed in prescribed and wildfire burns must meet regional (Ogden, Utah) and state (Idaho and Wyoming) guidelines.

The Big Hole Fire Management Plan

The Big Hole Fire Management Area is in the Big Hole Mountain Range sandwiched between Driggs, Rexburg and Idaho Falls. The Big Hole Area is divided into zones. In the North Zone all fires during fire season (June 25 to October 5) will be suppressed. Before and after fire season, fires with a small chance of spreading may be allowed to burn. In the Front Country Zone, no matter what time of year, all fires will be suppressed. The Front Country borders farmlands and is used by cattle leasees and firewood gatherers. For their safety, suppression is always immediate. In the Interior Zone, all fires will be allowed to burn unless poor air quality occurs and drops below state requirements. Fire size will be limited to 200 acres in key big game winter range along the Snake River.

The West Slope Fire Management Plan

The West Slope Fire Management Area also has zones. In Zone I, fires will be allowed to burn but not beyond 10 acres, under the following conditions:

- Smoke load acceptable.
- Not within "suppression belt" (a nearby area on the map where fires must immediately be put out).
- The region has enough firefighters available.
- The energy release component for 3 days is less than or equal to 34. (The energy release component is a prediction factor for determining how hot fuels could get.)
- No prediction for sustained NE, E, or SE winds greater than 20 m.p.h.

In Zone II, fires will be allowed to burn, but not beyond 10 acres, under the following conditions:

- No threat to life, property, or stock.
- No threat to a boundary.
- The region has enough firefighters available.
- The 3 day energy release component is equal to 14 (fuel model T) which is equal to 54 (fuel model G). Fuel model numbers refer to different types of vegetation.

Prevention efforts will be done through Action Plans. The Fire Management Action Plans will be annually updated for all areas to include:

Detection Program

Initial Action Program

Reinforcement Actions

Prevention Plans

Specific Action and Manning Plans

Annual Mobilization and Operation Plan

The Action Plan will provide advice to rural communities about fire prevention and control programs of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.

The Action Plans will include provisions in all permits and use authorizations for fire prevention and suppression.

The Targhee will attempt to limit the number of man-caused fire starts annually to the last three year average.

Benefits from use of prescribed fire in timber, range and wildlife areas will be a return of the natural growth cycle offering a variety of vegetation in succession; increased forage (food) for wildlife, cattle and sheep; increased diversity in wildlife; and long-term soil and water quality.

Advantages from allowing some wildfires to burn under certain conditions in certain areas are the same as the benefits above plus better firefighter safety and long-term cost savings.

ISSUE #14 SOIL AND WATER

What protection should the Targhee National Forest provide for soil and water resources in view of increasing impacts from other resource utilizations?

All resource project and development plans will consider soil and water needs and be designed to maintain or enhance soil productivity and water quantity.

A. Water

The Targhee will file for state water rights on water use to meet forest needs when not covered by the "reservation doctrine". The reservation doctrine is a legal interpretation of early forest law which recognizes that adequate water (adequate is the forest's use necessary to preserve forest timber and watershed conditions) is "reserved" for National Forest purposes. Water rights necessary for other National Forest purposes such as stock, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, or campgrounds belong to the state and rights to its use must be filed for.

The Targhee will implement the defined "Best Management Practices" and will monitor their effects in accordance with Section 208, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 92-500. The Best Management Practices are such things as good road construction, no tree limbs in stream beds, and water bars on trails. The Safe Drinking Water Act, Public Law 93-523, requires persons or entities that supply public water to test the water periodically for contamination. The Forest will follow this direction.

State and Federal Non Point Pollution standards will be used in all land disturbing projects planning. Examples of land disturbing project planning are herbicide spraying, bridge and road construction, and clearcutting in lodgepole pine.

The Targhee will complete a watershed inventory by 1983. The inventory for water resources of all order 3, 4, and 5 streams (major tributaries) will be completed by 1986. The watershed restoration backlog will be completed by the year 2000.

Watershed quality will be maintained or improved in all municipal watersheds.

All planned or existing projects, programs and facilities in flood plains or wetlands will follow the guidelines established by Executive Orders (EO) 11988 and 11990. These orders essentially state that priority in such areas goes to the flood plain or wetland, and activities or structures in these areas are minimized.

No campgrounds or administrative sites will be constructed within the 100-year flood plain of any perennial (continous flow) or intermittent (occasional) stream. A 100-year flood plain is an area where it is probable to have a flood at least once every 100 years. All existing campgrounds and administrative sites located in the 100-year flood plain will be identified and warning signs installed by 1983.

Projects which could result in stream channel modifications such as gradient, width and bank or bed stability beyond the immediate project area will not be permitted. Project area refers to such items as bridge sites and culvert locations.

The Targhee will manage riparian areas according to the Forest Riparian Direction. Examples of riparian areas are wet lands and stream bottoms. Essentially this direction gives preferential consideration to riparian dependent resources over other resources when there is unresolvable conflict. Other examples of direction are: Roads may not be built in riparian areas except to cross a stream; no skidding of timber is allowed across streams; and streambank stability will be maintained by regulation of livestock or other uses and activities.

Another major disturbance to riparian areas is grazing. By using intensive range management, including fencing of sensitive riparian areas, much of this problem will be resolved.

Dirt roads, built to remove wood or access minerals, usually cause the major disturbances that affect soil and water resources. To reduce erosion and water deterioration some roads are closed seasonally when snow, rain or mud cause problems.

B. Soils

All soil-disturbing projects (past and future) with moderate or higher erosion potential will be seeded with protective vegetation unless the following conditions exist.

- Natural revegetation is expected to provide ground cover within one year.

- The project's objectives require minimum ground cover. This might occur in a reforestation project. Vegetation other than the planted trees are undesireable because they might choke and outcompete the young tree for moisture, space and sunshine. Other erosion control measures will be used in these situations. Such measures may be spot scalping (keeping vegetation out of "spots" dug for trees only), leaving slash as barriers to water movement and avoiding activities on steep slopes.

The Targhee will complete Order 3 soil surveys by 1985. Order 3 surveys are land management planning to identify potential major soil problems in land management such as landslides. The Targhee will cooperate in the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program which is a program to map the nation's soils at an Order 3.

Order 1 and 2 surveys, which are project level, or site specific soil surveys, will be conducted on all proposed timber sale areas and range and wildlife habitat improvement projects in 1983.

Land that has a high chance of slides, movement or sloughs will not be occupied unless the proposed project can satisfactorily prevent potential soil movement.

The "Technical Guide to Erosion Prevention and Control on Timber Sale Areas", developed by Region 4's Soil and Water Management Branch, will be the standard used on timber sales and road construction projects.

Soil moisture will be evaluated before projects are started that might cause soil compaction or reduce moisture.

Alternative C will maintain water quality and quantity and soil productivity at required state standards. Soil and water are at the maximum compatibility level with 90% or greater output.

The advantages of constant monitoring and project inspections for soil and water will be continued for abundant and/or clean water for campgrounds; maintained soil productivity (loss of ability of soil to produce); watershed protection from pollution, such as bacterial contamination and sedimentation; abundant and/or clean water for fisheries and recreation; maintained scenic beauty; fewer disturbances of riparian areas; and little, if any, impact on the storage capacity of reservoirs (i.e. Island Park Dam) and irrigation canals.

ISSUE #15 CULTURAL RESOURCES

How should cultural resources and Research Natural Areas be coordinated in management of other unique features?

The Targhee will have cultural resource inventories and evaluations as part of project plans. Each type and extent of inventory and evaluation will be based on the type of planned activity and the cultural resource sensitivity. Sensitivity is the potential for encountering cultural resources in a given area. A list of cultural resource inventory intensities is included in the Forest Plan. The Targhee will prevent loss or damage of cultural resources until they can be evaluated for significant and appropriate uses.

Sensitive areas are: areas with less than 10^{o} slope: areas within 1,500' of a water source; areas with stands of root crops; areas of late summer/fall/winter big game habitat; obsidian/ignimbrite quarries; rock shelters; lake outlets with fishery-potential; areas with agricultural land; areas with livestock usage; and locations of historic-period sites as shown on contemporary maps or in journals.

The Targhee will manage significant cultural resources to maintain their recreational, educational, social and scientific values. Disruptive projects will be avoided in paleontological locales; aboriginal winter villages; summer base camps or temporary camps; and early fur-trade or Chief Joseph war-related areas. By taking these actions, alternative C will provide more opportunities to preserve cultural resources for future generations.

Research Natural Areas

The Targhee will identify, evaluate and recommend establishment of areas that have potential as Research Natural Areas (RNA's). RNA's are special, undisturbed, natural areas where optimum opportunities for research occur of an undisturbed, or unique plant species, resource, or ecological type.

The Targhee will evaluate and develop recommendations on identified RNA's in the sequence shown below. Until they are evaluated they will be managed in a manner that will not change current conditions.

Priority	Area	Potential Research Program
1	Targhee Creek	1. Limestone lakes, Alpine vegetation, Whitebark pine
2	Indian Lake	2. Shallow undisturbed lakes
3	Moose Lake	3. Shallow undisturbed lakes
4	Fogg Butte	4. Douglas-fir - Snowberry
5	Weber Creek	5. High Mountain Grassland
6	Moose Creek Plateau	6. Obsidian sands - lodgepole
7	Thurman Creek	7. Spring fed streams
8	Sheep Falls	8. Aquatic Site - Falls and sheep gradient stream
9	Copper Mountain	9. Alpine grassland
10	Willow Creek	10. Aspen - Mt. Maple - timber pine
11	Big Elk Creek	11. Forest and Shrub type

ISSUE #16 FURTHER PLANNING AREAS

How will RARE II Further Planning Areas be managed?

The Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) identified two areas on the Targhee with high wilderness qualities and high mineral, energy potential. These areas, "Palisades" and "Italian Peaks", were designated "Further Planning Areas" (FPA's) in the RARE II process, pending determination of their mineral potential. After the forest knows what lies beneath these areas, a recommendation for or against wilderness designation can be made based upon relative values and needs. A third FPA on the Targhee is the Centennial Mountains which do not have high oil and gas potential.

The Targhee will manage further planning areas by retaining their wilderness quality until a recommendation for final disposition can be made. Exceptions will be uses and activities, such as oil and gas exploration, which are legally proper but which may conflict with wilderness values. The RARE II FEIS recognizes the need for mineral exploration in order to gain the information needed for a decision on those areas.

Each of the three FPA's are designated as "management areas" in the Forest Plan. Guidelines specific to the area provide interim management direction pending resolution of further planning area status.

The three FPA's generally fit into ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum) classes I and II which are primitive-type recreation. ROS I and II types of recreation are best met in roadless areas.

Alternative C stresses the continued preservation of further planning areas by requiring more protective stipulations when mineral exploration or other resource impacts occur.

In order to maintain the wilderness qualities of FPA's, there will be no further timber sales or removals. The areas will be closed to off-road vehicles except on designated routes currently open in the 1981 Travel Plan. Most of the areas will be open to snowmachines.

FPA's will be managed to maintain or improve existing habitat for wildlife, particularly elk.

A slight increase in grazing use levels will occur.

All FPA's will be available for mineral exploration and leasing with special stipulations. Some HES (High Environmental Sensitivity) areas within the FPA's will require "No Surface Occupancy". This stipulation means that a company searching for oil and gas cannot occupy the land for the lease. Exploration could occur beneath High Environmentally Sensitive areas but not where the surface would be disturbed. Environmental Assessments are prepared for oil and gas leasing in the Palisades and Italian Peaks Further Planning Areas. The Palisades EA is currently under appeal.

ISSUE #17 WILDERNESS

How can wilderness values of areas recommended as wilderness to Congress in RARE II be maintained or enhanced in view of steadily increasing impacts?

Although no areas are officially wilderness on the Targhee, two areas have been recommended by the Forest Service and the administration to Congress for wilderness status. One area, the West Slope of the Tetons (in the state of Wyoming), which has a proposed name of "Rendezvous", is 124,100 acres. The area lies outside the Overthrust Belt and has little marketable timber. The other area is Lionhead, north of Island Park, totaling 14,400 acres.

These areas will be managed to retain their wilderness quality until Congress acts on the recommendation. Exceptions will be those uses and activities which are legally proper but may conflict with wilderness values. Normally, these exceptions involve private land rights and mineral activities.

Each recommended wilderness will be designated as a "management area" in the Forest Plan. Guidelines specific to each area are included in the plan as interim management direction pending resolution of the wilderness proposal.

Rendezvous Proposed Wilderness

Rendezvous will be managed for a variety of uses and experience levels. Activities allowed will include grazing, berry picking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, horsebackriding and spelunking. In high use or trailless areas, solitude opportunities will be emphasized. Rendezvous will be closed to off-road vehicles except along previously established designated routes in the 1981 Travel Plan. Rendezvous will be open to snowmobiles except in designated areas.

The Targhee will maintain habitat for existing wildlife numbers in Rendezvous. Special guidelines will continue to protect grizzly bear and mountain sheep.

All existing levels of cattle and sheep will continue.

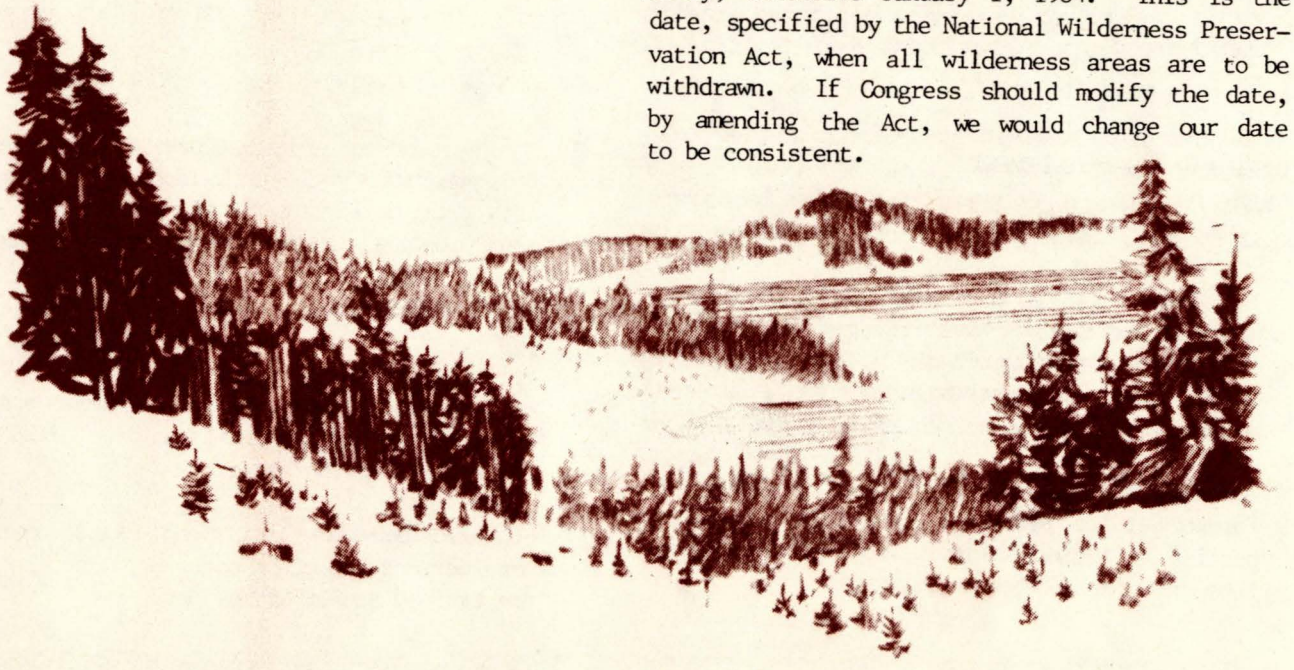
Lionhead Proposed Wilderness

Lionhead will be managed for a variety of uses and experiences with emphasis on hiking and hunting opportunities. The area will be closed to motor vehicles.

Elk winter and summer range will be maintained. All other wildlife habitats will be retained at existing levels. Range will remain at the same grazing levels.

The Targhee will allow no timber harvesting within Lionhead boundaries.

The Targhee will recommend that both the Lionhead and Rendezvous areas be withdrawn to mineral entry, effective January 1, 1984. This is the date, specified by the National Wilderness Preservation Act, when all wilderness areas are to be withdrawn. If Congress should modify the date, by amending the Act, we would change our date to be consistent.



ISSUE #18 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

What types of public information and education programs should the Targhee National Forest provide?

The Targhee will answer promptly all public or media inquires.

All Forest Service offices will provide detailed visitor information services such as maps and brochures. Forest Service personnel will be available to answer questions or provide assistance.

District Rangers, Forest Supervisor, and resource management staff persons will be personally available to the public and media representatives and will present a good host attitude.

Environmental education will be utilized as a preferred technique for increasing public understanding and answers of resource management.

Displays, self-guided trails, and other interpretive methods will be used in locations where the cost is warranted.

Signing will be clear, concise, and informative, with the objective of directing and informing the public on routes, locations and points of interest.

Advantages of keeping our publics well informed are that more persons will be educated about forest management; there will be more understanding of rules and regulations by the public; more publics will be informed about forest activities and plans; and more people can provide useful input into forest plans and activities.

ISSUE #19 LAW ENFORCEMENT

What law enforcement activities should be emphasized by the Targhee National Forest?

The Targhee will use cooperative agreements whereby local governments supply trained and experienced law enforcement officers on a scheduled basis in localities needing increased police patrol due to recreational activity.

The Targhee will emphasize the use of trained Forest Service personnel to assist and inform publics of National Forest regulations and perform enforcement when necessary.

The Targhee will use signing, brochures, posters and other information techniques that inform users of regulation in clear and understandable language, rather than "legal jargon".

By using a strong education instead of enforcement policy, the Targhee will gain better compliance and understanding of laws and why they exist.

ISSUE #20 HUMAN RESOURCES

To what extent should the Targhee National Forest use human resource programs to accomplish its mission?

The Targhee will use available conservation and other employment programs of a similar nature to accomplish work that could otherwise not be performed.

The Targhee will emphasize programs that use local youth, provide employment opportunities for minorities, and employ "Older Americans".

The Targhee will provide employment opportunities for women and ethnic minorities in professional, administrative, support and technical positions.

The Targhee will use the Senior Conservation Employment Program (SCEP), the Volunteers in the National Forest Program (VINIF), the Student Conservation Association Program (SCA), the Youth Conservation Corps Program, the nonresidential Young Adult Conservation Corps Program (YACC), the College and Vocational Work Study Program (SWC/VEWS), and the "1890 Program".

Human resource programs provide opportunities for minorities, the unskilled and other Americans to work for the Forest Service. These persons provide diversity amongst employees. The Forest Service, in turn, offers a more well-balanced service to the people it serves.

By using human resource programs the Targhee will accomplish more work that might otherwise not be done such as trail building, maintenance or certain clerical jobs.

Economic benefits return to local communities when persons who might not otherwise be employed are trained and/or given jobs.

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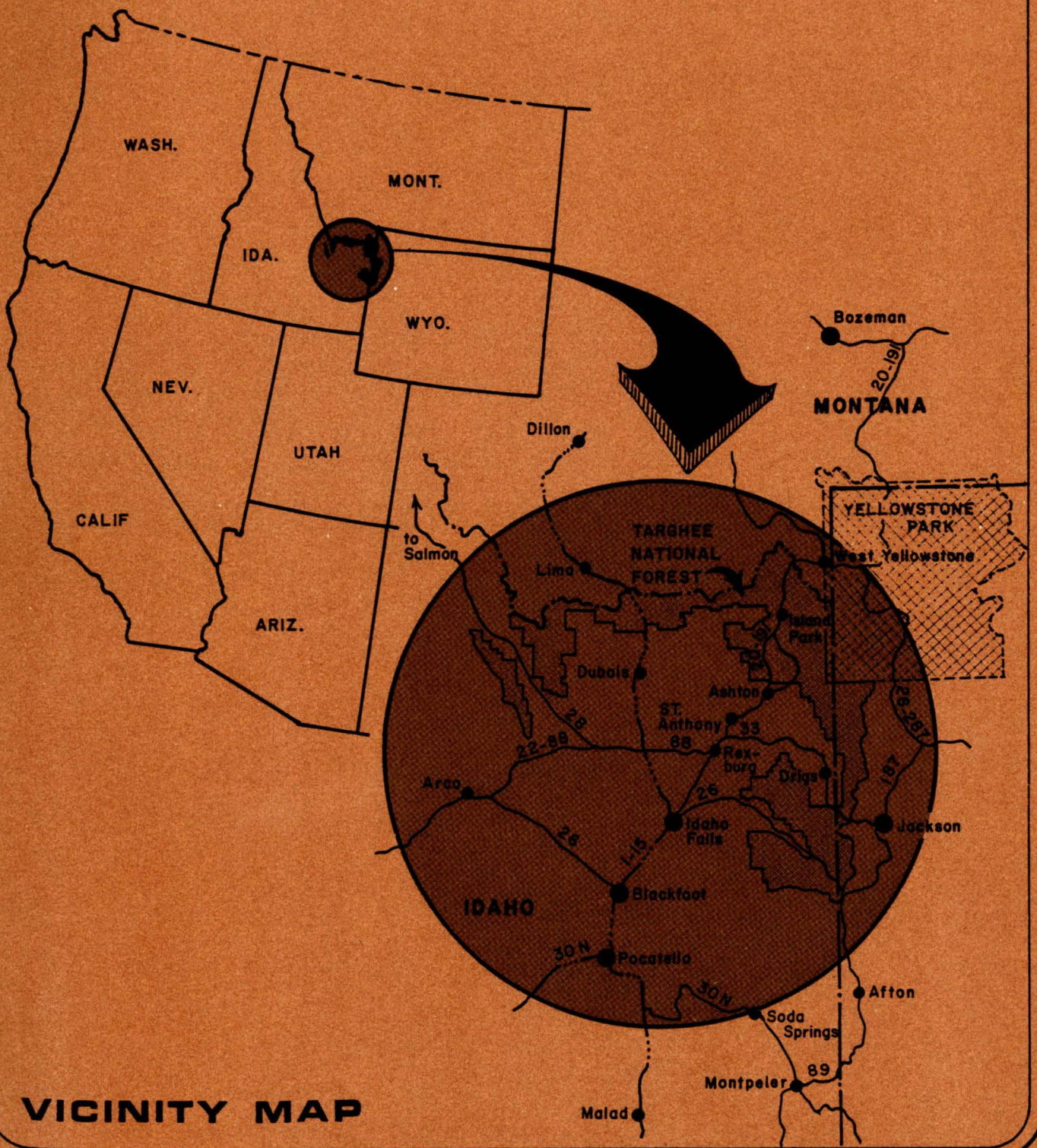
TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST



VICINITY MAP